

image  
241  
DIGITAL  
EDITION

# SPAWN<sup>®</sup>

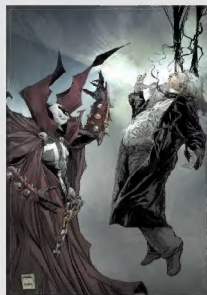


McFARIANE  
Inspired  
by ERIK

+fco

THE  
ANGEL OF  
DEATH





## PREVIOUSLY IN SPAWN

Jim and Cogliostro continue to argue at the construction site of the new John Doe Outreach Foundation. With no warning, Jim sprouts his angel wings, and it suddenly all makes sense to Cogliostro—whichever side gains control of Jim, wins. However, both sides are unaware of a few other players on the board.

While Cogliostro still thinks he's speaking to Jim, the costume assumes its control, and leaves a very gruesome scene at the construction site. However, the costume doesn't maintain control for long, as Jim busts through with the Wings of Redemption.



**Jim Downing (Spawn)** – A man whose past is shrouded in mystery, and connected intimately to the very fabric of the Spawn mythos, Jim is the world's newest Hellspawn...and so much more. Having spent years in a deep coma, Jim's main drive is piecing together the fragments of the man he was, in an effort to discover the man he truly is.



**Cogliostro** – Once locked in a tower in Hell, the ultimate Hellspawn mentor has mysteriously returned to guide the newest Hellspawn, Jim Downing. However, his motivations are not yet clear, leaving Jim to wonder if Cog can be trusted.



**Costume/ Symbiote** – The hell-born symbiote that was once bound to Al Simmons, is now attached to Jim Downing. As the symbiote begins to slowly exert more influence, only time will tell just how dangerous this loyal soldier of Hell truly is.



**Dead Zone** – A celestial safe zone, which neutralizes both agents of Heaven and Hell's powers. Several Dead Zones exist, though few have been revealed. These portals allow Heaven and Hell to place each other's pieces (agents) on the board (Earth), but they're full origin story may alter the game in a way no one's imagined.

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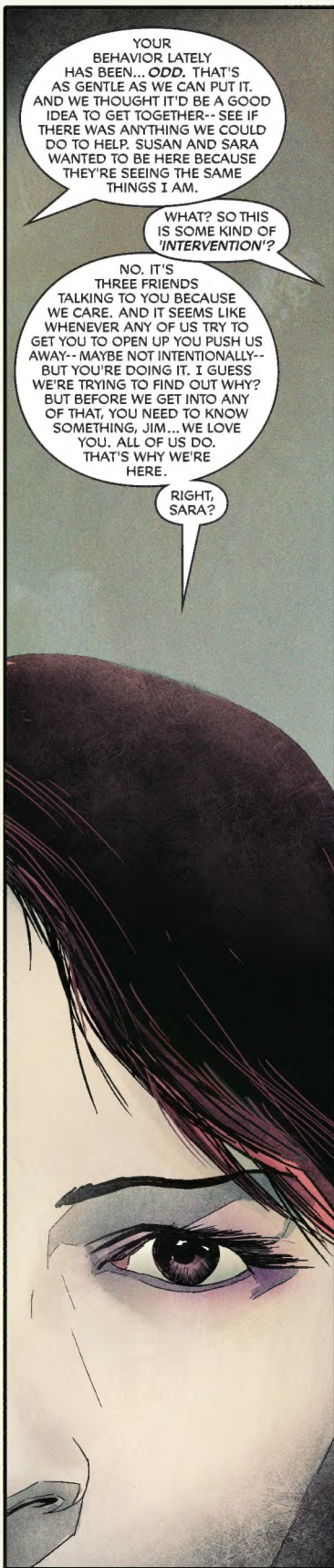
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**TODD McFARLANE**  
PRODUCTIONS  
**SPAWN.COM**



OKAY,  
I'M SITTING.  
SO TELL ME--  
WHAT'S THIS  
ABOUT?

WE WANTED  
TO TALK WITH YOU  
BECAUSE WE'RE  
CONCERNED...



YOUR  
BEHAVIOR LATELY  
HAS BEEN... *ODD*. THAT'S  
AS GENTLE AS WE CAN PUT IT.  
AND WE THOUGHT IT'D BE A GOOD  
IDEA TO GET TOGETHER-- SEE IF  
THERE WAS ANYTHING WE COULD  
DO TO HELP. SUSAN AND SARA  
WANTED TO BE HERE BECAUSE  
THEY'RE SEEING THE SAME  
THINGS I AM.

WHAT? SO THIS  
IS SOME KIND OF  
'INTERVENTION'?

NO. IT'S  
THREE FRIENDS  
TALKING TO YOU BECAUSE  
WE CARE. AND IT SEEMS LIKE  
WHenever ANY OF US TRY TO  
GET YOU TO OPEN UP YOU PUSH US  
AWAY-- MAYBE NOT INTENTIONALLY--  
BUT YOU'RE DOING IT. I GUESS  
WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT WHY?  
BUT BEFORE WE GET INTO ANY  
OF THAT, YOU NEED TO KNOW  
SOMETHING, JIM... WE LOVE  
YOU. ALL OF US DO.  
THAT'S WHY WE'RE  
HERE.

RIGHT,  
SARA?



RIGHT.  
WE'RE NOT  
HERE TO  
GANG UP ON  
YOU.

SADLY,  
WE CAN'T EVEN  
PRETEND TO KNOW  
WHAT YOU'VE BEEN  
GOING THROUGH.  
BUT WHATEVER IT IS--  
YOU HAVE TO LET  
US BE A PART  
OF IT.



LOOK, GUYS,  
I APPRECIATE YOUR  
CONCERN. IN FACT I'M  
QUITE TOUCHED BY YOU  
WANTING TO DO THIS. BUT...  
I'M GOOD. *REALLY*. I'M  
SORRY IF I'VE BEEN A BIT  
DIFFICULT. OBVIOUSLY, THAT  
WASN'T MY INTENTION.  
I JUST NEEDED TO SORT  
A FEW THINGS OUT  
ON MY OWN.

AND  
NOW YOU'RE  
FINE?

YEP.

WELL,  
JIM-- I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
YOU!

SUSAN!

I GET  
YOU'VE BEEN  
TRYING TO FIND  
YOUR PAST AND  
HOW FRUSTRATING  
THAT MUST BE. BUT  
THE OTHER STUFF-- WE  
CAN'T UNDERSTAND  
WHY YOU WON'T  
LET US HELP YOU  
OUT WITH THAT  
MORE.

WHAT  
OTHER  
STUFF?

LIKE ALL THAT  
MERCHANDISING  
CRAP RAMUS IS MAKING  
WITH YOUR IMAGE ON IT.  
YOU KEEP SAYING HOW  
THAT PISSES YOU OFF, BUT  
EVERY TIME I MENTION IT  
YOU CHANGE THE  
SUBJECT.





SO, IF IT BUGS YOU THAT MUCH, DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT. OR LET US.

CAN I JUST GO ON RECORD AND SAY THAT WHAT RAMUS DID WAS 'DICKISH'. WHAT DO YOU THINK, SARA?

I CAN TALK TO HIM. TELL HIM HOW YOU FEEL. WHAT'S HE GOING TO DO? PULL HIS FUNDING FOR THE FOUNDATION BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT HIM MAKING ANYMORE POSTERS? OF COURSE NOT!

IT'S NOT THE WORD I'D USE... BUT I AGREE.

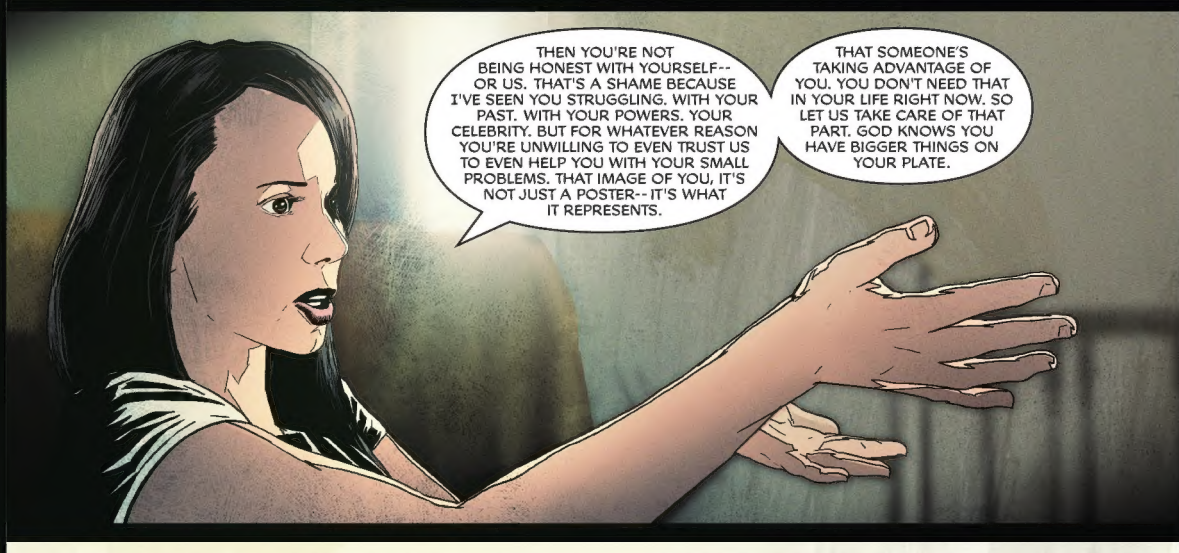


THAT POSTER UP BEHIND ME-- YOU PUT IT UP TO WHAT? RUB IT IN?

I PUT IT UP AS A TALKING POINT. SOMETHING TO GET THIS CONVERSATION GOING. SO, LOOK AT IT AND TELL ME THAT THING DOESN'T IRRITATE YOU.



NOPE.  
NOT A BIG DEAL.



THEN YOU'RE NOT BEING HONEST WITH YOURSELF-- OR US. THAT'S A SHAME BECAUSE I'VE SEEN YOU STRUGGLING. WITH YOUR PAST. WITH YOUR POWERS. YOUR CELEBRITY. BUT FOR WHATEVER REASON YOU'RE UNWILLING TO EVEN TRUST US TO EVEN HELP YOU WITH YOUR SMALL PROBLEMS. THAT IMAGE OF YOU, IT'S NOT JUST A POSTER-- IT'S WHAT IT REPRESENTS.

THAT SOMEONE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF YOU. YOU DON'T NEED THAT IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW. SO LET US TAKE CARE OF THAT PART. GOD KNOWS YOU HAVE BIGGER THINGS ON YOUR PLATE.





THERE'S AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



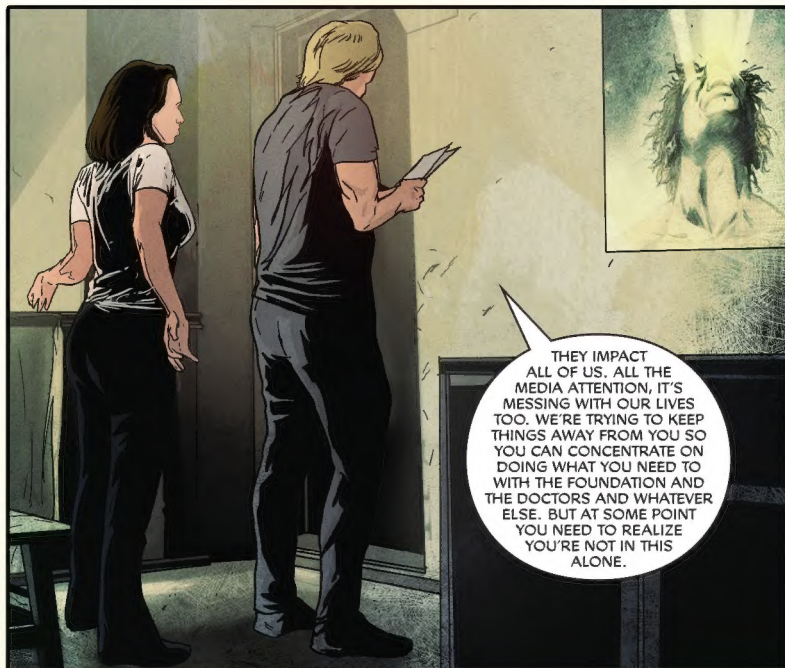
BUT LET'S BE CLEAR. I CAN'T JUST ASK RAMUS TO STOP MAKING THESE CALENDARS AND SHIRTS. IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT AND RIGHT NOW I CAN'T GO INTO DETAILS WHY.



SEE, I TOLD YOU THIS WOULDN'T WORK. LET'S JUST GIVE HIM HIS SPACE.

HIS SPACE? YOU'RE GOING TO BUST YOUR ASS FOR A FOUNDATION WHO'S LEADER WON'T TALK TO YOU AND NEEDS HIS SPACE?! GOD YOU'RE RIDICULOUS, MARC! I THOUGHT...

YOU SEE THIS? YOUR ACTIONS, JIM, AFFECT MORE THAN JUST YOU.



THEY IMPACT ALL OF US. ALL THE MEDIA ATTENTION, IT'S MESSING WITH OUR LIVES TOO. WE'RE TRYING TO KEEP THINGS AWAY FROM YOU SO YOU CAN CONCENTRATE ON DOING WHAT YOU NEED TO WITH THE FOUNDATION AND THE DOCTORS AND WHATEVER ELSE. BUT AT SOME POINT YOU NEED TO REALIZE YOU'RE NOT IN THIS ALONE.



SO WHAT DO I DO?





YOU'RE RIGHT. I NEED TO DO A BETTER JOB OF COMMUNICATING WITH YOU GUYS. SO, FROM NOW ON, WHEN I'M AROUND YOU GUYS I'LL SMILE AND BE CHARMING!

STOP IT! WE DON'T DESERVE YOUR SARCASM. NOT WHEN ALL WE DO IS BEND OVER BACKWARDS TRYING TO SUPPORT YOU.

MARC IS DOWN AT THE CONSTRUCTION SITE EVERY DAY MAKING SURE THE PROTESTORS DON'T GET OUT OF HAND BECAUSE HE DOESN'T WANT YOU TO GET ANYMORE BAD PRESS THAN IS NECESSARY. BUT WHEN REPORTERS ASK HIM-- OR US-- WHY YOU KEEP DISAPPEARING... WE'D RATHER NOT LIE ABOUT IT. WHICH WE'VE BEEN DOING.



IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?

SARA, YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROTECT ME.



LOOK, DUDE, I DON'T WANT TO ADD TO YOUR PROBLEMS, BUT SARA'S RIGHT. YOU DON'T LET US IN YOUR HEAD-- THAT MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR ALL OF US.

SO WHAT DO I DO?







One Night Earlier.



COULDN'T  
TELL YOU.  
NOT UNTIL I  
WAS SURE.

AND THERE  
ARE OTHER  
THINGS I CAN'T  
TALK ABOUT  
BECAUSE...

I JUST  
CAN'T.



COG...?



WHAT  
DID THEY  
DO TO  
YOU?

COG!  
GOD DAMN  
IT, GET UP!  
YOU HEAR ME?  
YOU'RE NOT  
GOING TO DIE  
HERE! NOT  
HERE!



**NOW  
GET  
UP!**





koff!

koff!

IS IT  
GONE?

IS WHAT  
GONE?

YOUR  
SYMBIOTE! \*  
DID YOU GET IT  
UNDER...

\* See last issue--Todd



...CONTROL?

IT'S NOT  
POSSIBLE!  
NOT LIKE  
THIS.

I'M IN  
NO MOOD,  
OLD MAN! YOU  
HAVE SOMETHING  
TO SAY THEN  
SAY IT!

YOUR  
WINGS--  
HOW LONG  
HAVE YOU  
HAD  
THEM?

I DON'T  
KNOW. THEY  
APPEARED WHEN  
I WAS FIGHTING  
MALEBOLGIA. THAT  
WAS ABOUT A  
MONTH AGO.  
WHY?

LISTEN TO ME  
VERY CAREFULLY-- THE  
ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION  
IS VERY CRUCIAL. I SAW YOU  
WITH THE WINGS IN YOUR  
HUMAN FORM. THAT I UNDER-  
STAND, BUT WHAT I NEED TO  
KNOW IS HOW LONG HAVE YOU  
HAD THOSE WINGS **AND**  
YOUR BLACK COSTUME  
AT THE SAME TIME?



I DON'T  
KNOW.

THEN  
THINK!  
BECAUSE YOUR  
ANSWER MAY  
MAKE ALL THE  
DIFFERENCE  
TO THIS  
WORLD.

I GUESS  
IT'S...

I DON'T  
WANT A  
GUESS! I NEED  
A DEFINITIVE  
ANSWER!

NOW.

THE  
FIRST TIME  
THIS HAS  
HAPPENED  
IS RIGHT  
NOW.

THAT'S WHAT  
I THOUGHT. WE  
NEED TO GET BACK  
TO THE 'DEAD  
ZONE'!

I KNOW WHY MY  
POWERS WERE STILL ALIVE WHEN  
WE WERE IN HERE BEFORE.\* IT'S BECAUSE  
OF YOU. YOU'RE ABLE TO CHANNEL HEAVEN  
OR HELL WHENEVER YOU WANT. NO SPAWN'S  
BEEN ABLE TO DO THAT. BUT YOUR PROBLEM  
NOW IS THAT IF *BLUDD* OR THE *CLOWN* OR  
YOUR COSTUME, ARE EVER ABLE TO CON-  
TROL YOU... THEY'LL HAVE A CONDUIT  
DIRECTLY TO HEAVEN.

AND THEY KNOW  
THAT WITH YOUR POWERS,  
YOU'RE NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE  
TO DEFEAT. SO THEY'LL ATTACK  
THOSE CLOSEST TO YOU INSTEAD.  
EVERYONE YOU KNOW IS A  
TARGET. THEY'LL USE THAT  
AGAINST YOU. THEY WON'T TRY  
AND BEAT YOU-- THEY'LL GET  
YOU TO SURRENDER  
INSTEAD.

I DON'T  
ENVY YOU OR  
YOUR POWERS  
ANYMORE.

BECAUSE  
THE BEST YOU  
CAN HOPE FOR IS  
TO WATCH OVER  
THEM BUT NOT  
GET CLOSE.





I GIVE  
YOU AS  
MUCH AS I  
CAN.

BUT  
THERE'LL BE  
TIMES I'LL  
NEED TO GET  
AWAY.

BE ON  
MY  
OWN.



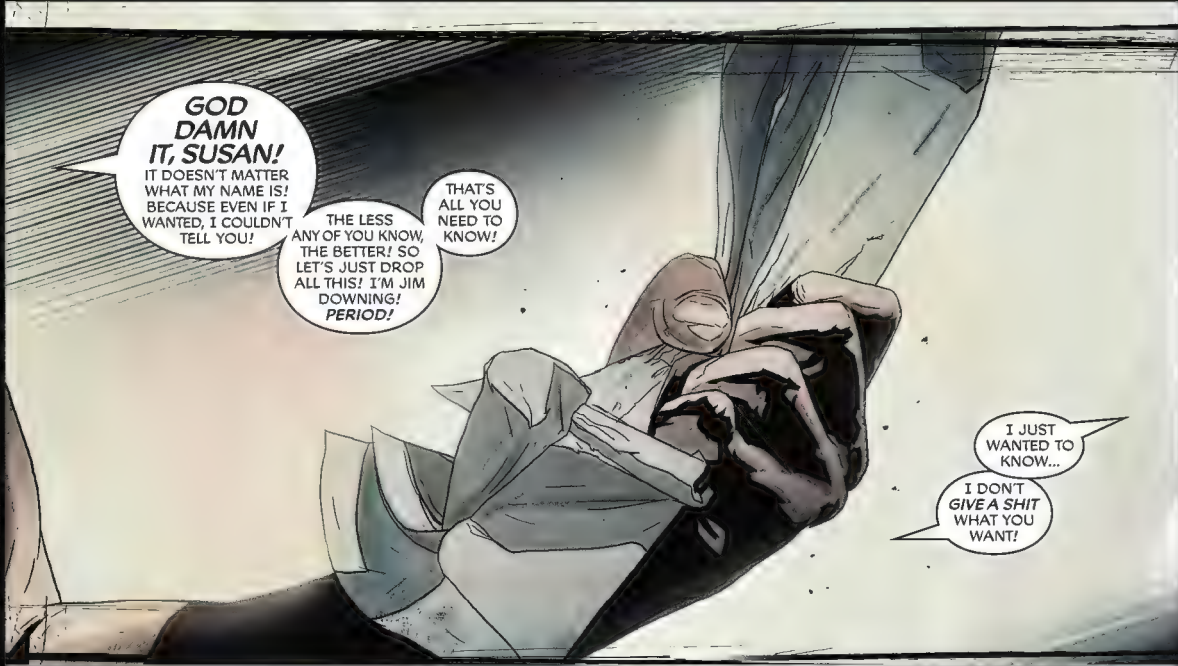
JIM... WE  
HAD NO  
IDEA.

YOU'VE  
FOUND YOUR  
PAST?



JUST  
PIECES OF  
IT. AND MOST  
OF IT'S UGLY  
TO SAY THE  
LEAST.

WHAT  
ABOUT YOUR  
NAME? DID  
YOU FIND THAT  
TOO?



**GOD  
DAMN  
IT, SUSAN!**  
IT DOESN'T MATTER  
WHAT MY NAME IS!  
BECAUSE EVEN IF I  
WANTED, I COULDN'T  
TELL YOU!

THE LESS  
ANY OF YOU KNOW,  
THE BETTER! SO  
LET'S JUST DROP  
ALL THIS! I'M JIM  
DOWNING!  
**PERIOD!**

THAT'S  
ALL YOU  
NEED TO  
KNOW!

I JUST  
WANTED TO  
KNOW...

I DON'T  
GIVE A SHIT  
WHAT YOU  
WANT!





THAT'S ENOUGH! SHE DOESN'T DESERVE THAT ATTITUDE! SHE WAS JUST ASKING OUT OF CONCERN.

WE DIDN'T KNOW YOU'D GOTTEN CLUES TO YOUR PAST.



EVEN IF I DID-- SUSAN'S ALWAYS FAWNING OVER ME ABOUT EVERYTHING? IF I NEED HER HELP I'LL ASK FOR IT!



WELL, LET ME TELL YOU WHAT I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT! YOU AND YOUR BULLSHIT ATTITUDE! I'M SICK OF IT! YOU WANT TO FEEL SORRY FOR YOURSELF -- GO AHEAD, BE MY GUEST. BUT DON'T YOU DARE TAKE OUT YOUR FRUSTRATIONS ON SUSAN AGAIN.

YOU HEAR ME?

BECAUSE I'LL DROP YOU WHERE YOU STAND NEXT TIME.

WHOA! WHOA! RELAX BIG FELLA.



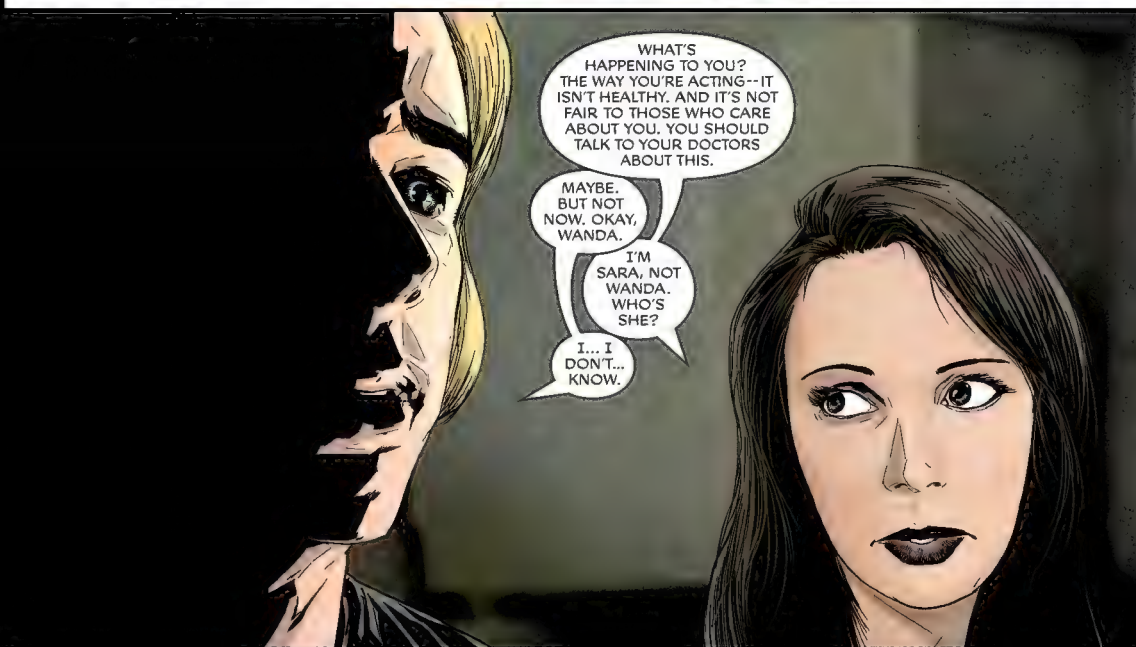
C'MON, SUSAN! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE. I KNEW THIS WAS A BAD IDEA.



WELL... THAT WENT EXCELLENT, I THINK.

THIS ISN'T A JOKE, JIM. NONE OF IT IS.







The John Doe Foundation  
Construction Site  
2:07 A.M.



HOW DID  
DOWNING  
BREACH YOUR  
SECURITY?

IT WASN'T  
DOWNING. IT  
WAS COGLIOSTRO.  
HE LEVELED THEM  
AND THEN  
BROUGHT THE  
SPAWN HERE.

COGLIOSTRO?  
HE'S BACK? COOL!  
BUT OBVIOUSLY HE  
ACQUIRED NEW  
POWERS WHILE  
SITTING ON HELL'S  
THRONE.

WE'LL  
NEED TO  
KEEP AN EYE  
ON HIM  
TOO.



BUT, YOU  
STILL HAVEN'T  
TOLD ME  
WHAT ALL THIS IS  
ABOUT, BLUDD.  
I'M HOPING  
THIS ISN'T SOME  
KIND  
OF TRAP.

YOU  
ALWAYS  
WERE A  
SKEPTIC,  
SOLOMON.  
JUST  
FOLLOW  
ME...



...IT'S IN  
HERE.



A  
'DEAD ZONE'?  
THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT  
IT IS. THE SAME THING  
WE'VE BOTH BEEN  
LOOKING FOR.

HOW'D  
YOU  
FIND IT?

DOWNING. HE LED US  
TO IT WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING.  
AND THEN IT WAS A SIMPLE MATTER TO  
PURCHASE THE LAND UNDER THE GUISE  
OF ERECTING A FOUNDATION TO CURE THE  
TERMINALLY ILL. HELL, THE CITY EVEN GAVE ME  
SOME TAX BREAKS FOR IT. CAN YOU IMAGINE?  
I FINALLY FIND THE PORTAL TO HEAVEN AND  
THESE GOD FORSAKEN HUMANS FIGURE OUT  
A WAY TO 'INCENTIVIZE' ME TO BUY IT AT A  
DISCOUNT. THEIR STUPIDITY NEVER  
CEASES TO AMAZE ME.

This had  
better be  
important. I  
told you not  
to call me.

IS THIS...  
NO! IT CAN'T  
BE! THIS ISN'T  
WHAT I THINK  
IT IS?

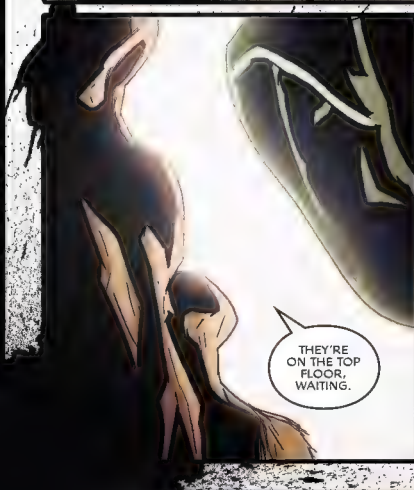
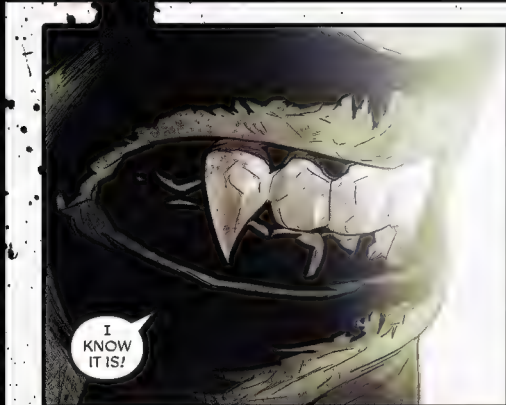
I'LL TELL YOU  
WHAT'S AMAZING.

**THIS!**

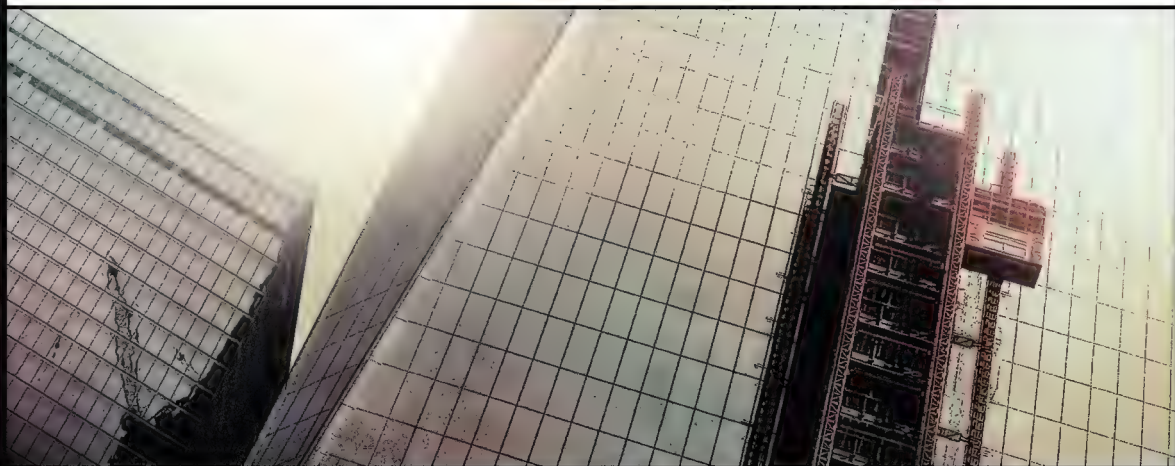
THIS PERFECT PATCH OF  
DIRT COULD BE THE CATALYST  
ALL OUR VAMPIRE CLANS  
NEED TO STOP FIGHTING  
ONE ANOTHER AND  
JOIN FORCES  
INSTEAD.

CAN YOU  
PICTURE  
THE LOOK ON  
GOD'S FACE  
IF WE DID  
THAT?









SO...? I  
UNDERSTAND  
YOU WANT TO  
TALK TO ME.



THAT'S  
RIGHT.

THEN  
SPEAK, AND  
MAKE IT QUICK--  
I'M RATHER  
BUSY RIGHT  
NOW.

WE'LL GET  
STRAIGHT TO THE  
POINT. AS YOU'RE AWARE  
MR. RAMUS, YOU AND YOUR  
CORPORATIONS HAVE CERTAIN  
OBLIGATIONS TO YOUR OTHER  
FINANCIAL PARTNERS. IT'S COME  
TO OUR ATTENTION THAT THE  
CONSTRUCTION OF THIS BUILDING  
HASN'T BEEN VETTED  
THROUGH THE PROPER  
CHANNELS.



ALL THE  
LAYERS HAVE  
GIVEN FINAL SIGNA-  
TURES. EVERYONE'S  
BEEN SATISFIED  
SO FAR.

NOT  
QUITE.

YOU SEE, WE  
FOUND OUT THAT  
THERE IS MORE VALUE  
TO THIS PROPERTY  
THAN YOU'VE LED US TO  
BELIEVE. OUR BOSS  
DOESN'T LIKE THAT  
YOU'RE NOT SHARING  
WITH HIM.





HE'S BEEN  
PAID IN FULL!  
I DON'T OWE HIM  
MORE THAN  
THAT!



THAT'S NOT  
HOW MR. GIBBONS  
PERCEIVES IT. HE BELIEVES  
HALF OF WHAT YOU'RE  
HIDING IN THE BASEMENT  
IS HIS. SO HE WANTS ME  
TO PASS ALONG THIS  
SUGGESTION...

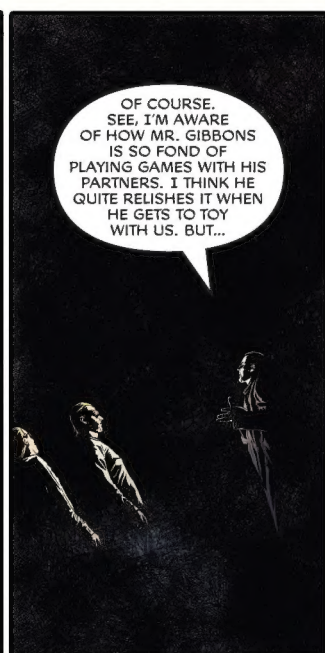
EITHER YOU  
INVOLVE HIM *IN ALL*  
YOUR FUTURE PLANS  
AGAINST GOD, OR HE TAKES  
OVER THIS ENTIRE PROJECT.  
LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL.  
YOUR CHOICE. BECAUSE AT  
THE END OF THE DAY, YOU  
DON'T GET TO CONTROL  
THIS 'DEAD ZONE'.



INTERESTING.  
BUT YOU MUST  
HAVE FORGOTTEN  
ABOUT THE  
THIRD OPTION.

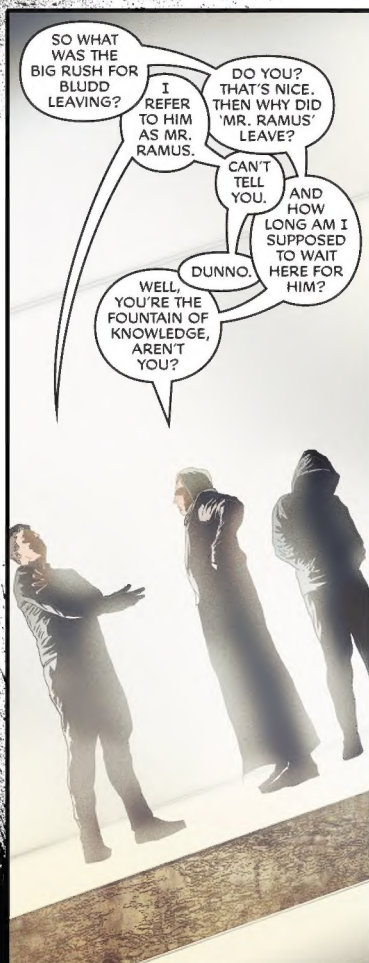


THERE'S  
A THIRD  
ONE?



OF COURSE.  
SEE, I'M AWARE  
OF HOW MR. GIBBONS  
IS SO FOND OF  
PLAYING GAMES WITH HIS  
PARTNERS. I THINK HE  
QUITE RELISHES IT WHEN  
HE GETS TO TOY  
WITH US. BUT...









I'M YOUR  
**REDEEMER!**  
YOUR ANGEL OF  
**DEATH!**

**TO BE CONTINUED**







Tyrant  
Lizard  
King

EMPIRE